



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

Repatriation of Isolated Personnel

ISSUE: DoD Instruction 2310.4 “Repatriation of Prisoners of War (POW), Hostages, Peacetime Government Detainees and Other Missing or Isolated Personnel”

BACKGROUND: This Instruction implements policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for repatriating U.S. military, DoD civilian employees, and DoD contractor employees who have been Prisoners of War (POW), held hostage by terrorists (inside or outside the continental United States (CONUS)), detained in peacetime by a hostile foreign government, evading enemy capture, or were otherwise missing under hostile conditions.

DISCUSSION: This policy applies to U.S. personnel who are returned to U.S. Government control whether by escape, release, repatriation, rescue, or other means. DoD and the Military Services refer to plans and actions relating to processing returned personnel as YELLOW RIBBON. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy will develop policies that govern planning, coordinating, and directing all YELLOW RIBBON processing activities.

Basic responsibilities broken down by organization are:

- DASD(POW/Missing Personnel Affairs) provides policy oversight of all repatriation efforts within DoD.
- Each Military Department will designate a point of contact within the Service staff for repatriation activities, identify potential CONUS processing locations, and task the commanders of the designated bases to develop YELLOW RIBBON contingency plans.
- The Secretary of the Air Force will establish returnee aeromedical evacuation procedures from overseas to CONUS and within CONUS.
- United States Joint Forces Command, as the Executive Agent for Personnel Recovery (which includes repatriation shall coordinate, manage, facilitate, and assist Commanders of the Combatant Commands and Military Services to implement this Instruction. JPRA, as USJFCOM’s OPR for repatriation will oversee all returnee-debriefing activities, and provide technical direction and advice to the commands and services on repatriation.
- The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will ensure the combatant commanders in locations where personnel are returned exercise initial control over returnees and coordinate for their return for repatriation, military situation permitting.